

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 22, 2005. This Office Action issued a Restriction Requirement, indicating that the present application contains patentably distinct species of the claimed invention corresponding to I) figures 1 and 2; and II) figures 1 and 4. Accordingly, the Office Action required election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

In the reply filed on September 30, 2005, Applicants canceled claims 33-37. In order to adequately address the present Office Action, Applicants have added new claims 38-39 which correspond directly to previously canceled claims 33-34. Applicants hereby identify the following groupings of claims:

Group I (claims 1-13, 19-32 and 33-34); and

Group II (claims 14-18)

Applicants provisionally elect Group I (corresponding to figures 1 and 2) for further prosecution in the present application. Claims 1-13 and 22-32 of Group I correspond to figure 1. Claims 19-21 and 38-39 (newly added) correspond to figure 2. Applicants hereby withdraw claims 14-18 (Group II), which correspond to figure 4. Applicants note that previously-canceled claims 35-37 also correspond to figure 4. Applicants reserve the right to present any canceled or withdrawn claims in a separate patent application or in the present application should such presentation be appropriate.

Applicants note that this is the second restriction requirement in this application. Applicants have made good faith efforts to address these restriction requirements and have spoken with the Examiner and the Primary Examiner on multiple occasions concerning this matter. In order to avoid any further prosecution delay, if the Office maintains that the current response to the restriction requirement is inadequate in any way, Applicants request that the Office point out with particularity which claims the Office believes correspond to which of the above particular species.

Allowance of all pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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